

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-13

NEW YORK TIMES
30 MARCH 1982

Inman Bids Academics Monitor Own Security

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 29 — Adm. Bobby R. Inman, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, urged the scientific community today to come forward with proposals to reduce the flow of technical information with military and industrial applications to the Soviet Union or face the prospect of Government-imposed constraints.

"It is time for the scientific community to accept that there is an outflow, and that outflow is potentially damaging," Admiral Inman said at a Congressional hearing. Academic scientists, he went on, should not wait

for Government regulation but should "set up their own mechanisms now to determine ideas to limit the outflow."

He spoke at a joint hearing of two subcommittees of the House Science and Technology Committee into Government proposals to restrict access to certain nonsecret but sensitive scientific information. These efforts have aroused intense unease among academic scientists, many of whom say they fear clumsy bureaucratic intrusion that might undermine American scientific prowess.

The fears were deepened in January when Admiral Inman raised the possibility of Government intervention to stem the disclosing of ideas. At the time he was speaking before the American Association for the Advancement of Science and today he complained bitterly that news accounts had exaggerated his remarks. He professed surprise that his comments had been taken as a threat by his agency rather than as the private views of a "knowledgeable citizen."

Admiral Inman said today that he was trying to serve as a "goat" to the academic world, to get it to act before more onerous proposals came from the Departments of Defense, Commerce and State, and the National Security Agency, not the Central Intelligence Agency.

Representative Albert Gore Jr., the Tennessee Democrat who heads the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, suggested that Admiral Inman was taking the "first step along the road that has made Soviet science so pitiful." Admiral Inman heatedly retorted that he was not proposing censorship.

Sees Rise in University Leaks

While he said that only a "small percentage" of technical leakage came from college campuses, Admiral Inman predicted it would rise soon if counter-espionage efforts succeeded in closing off industrial and other sources to Soviet agents. He said universities already restricted access to research to protect their commercial interests.

Lawrence J. Brady, assistant Secre-

tary of Commerce for trade administration, said the department, which enforces export controls, was concerned about academic research because colleges had become more involved in work with industrial applications. He called it a "sensitive and complex problem" to restrict sensitive technology without "unduly burdening scientific research."

However, later today, he spoke differently to the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He complained that the Administration confronted "a strong belief in the academic community that they have an inherent right to teach, conduct research and develop exchange programs free of Government review or oversight."

"Clearly we cannot allow our vital technological lead to be whittled away," he said, "simply because we refuse to take the time and trouble to try and strike a balance between the demands of academic freedom and the needs of national security."

At the hearing, Dr. Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences, said he feared that Government efforts might force some basic research with indirect military applications out of universities, "thus denying this important resource to the Defense Department."

"We should consider how much our security is harmed by denying Government access to many of the nation's most brilliant scientists," he said.